

National Teachers Association. Charlene is a true inspiration to her colleagues and her students. Her tireless efforts over the past twenty years have had an enormous impact on the Alabama educational system.

Judy Reeves is an environmental science teacher at Baldwin County High School in Bay Minette. Judy has also been praised for her work, using outdoor activities to inspire her elementary students. In a courageous effort to help children outside her classroom, she successfully instituted a mentor program for younger students in her community. Judy began teaching almost ten years ago at Fairhope High School, and ever since she has been encouraging and inspiring Alabama's children to excel in both Math and Science.

Over the course of the last few years, Judy has become quite accustomed to receiving awards. Numerous agencies and associations including the Alabama Wildlife Federation and the Alabama Science Teachers Association have recognized her for displaying superior teaching and motivational skills. She stands out among her colleagues as an exceptional teacher and her unflagging efforts to better the level of education for Alabama's children must not go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, we seldom meet people who give so tirelessly of their time and efforts as Judy Reeves and Charlene Dindo. Sir, please join me in paying tribute to these two wonderful women whose contributions to their community and the children around them are unmatched. May they continue to educate and enlighten Alabama's youth for a number of years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL H. SELDENRIGHT ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE U.P. LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. STUPAK Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Paul H. Seldenright, who has devoted 41 years of his life to the labor movement, working to ensure a good quality of life for working men and women.

Born and raised in Detroit, Paul began his union career in 1960 as a member of United Steelworkers of America, Local 2659, in Trenton, Michigan. His strong interest in politics led to his becoming chairman of his local's Political Action Committee from 1962 to 1968. In 1968 Paul became assistant director for Vice President Hubert Humphrey's Democratic presidential campaign in Michigan, Michigan Citizens for Humphrey.

A number of jobs in state government followed, including Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State, Assistant Secretary of State, and Assistant Director of the Senate Democratic Staff. In 1970, Paul served as Associate manager for the successful G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams for Michigan Supreme Court Campaign.

In 1973 Paul began working for the Michigan AFL-CIO as coordinator for COPE, the AFL-CIO's political arm. He became COPE director in 1982 and, except for a brief stint as the federation's legislative director from 1984 through 1986, he served in that role until his

retirement at the end of 2000. As COPE director, Paul was responsible for organizing and implementing the State AFL-CIO's year-round political program in conjunction with the federation's affiliated unions.

Another important responsibility was serving as liaison between the state AFL-CIO and the Upper Peninsula central labor councils. When Paul first took over this role, there were only four central labor councils in the U.P. He was instrumental in helping form two new councils, the Eastern U.P. Labor Council and the Dickinson-Iron Labor Council.

Paul also served key roles in other U.P. initiatives and activities. Along with former Michigan State AFL-CIO President William C. Marshall, he served on the original planning committee for the Italian Hall project in Calumet. The project, now complete, is considered one of the Northwest U.P. Labor council's most important achievements. Mr. Speaker, the Italian Hall memorial commemorates the deaths of more than 70 people—striking miners, their wives and children—who were killed when fire struck their gathering on Christmas Eve in 1913.

Paul also was a member of the Northern Michigan University Labor Studies Advisory and Planning Committee since its inception in the late 1970s. Since the early 1980s he has coordinated the annual U.P. Labor Conference, considered the U.P.'s most important labor event other than Labor Day.

Although officially retired, Paul maintains an active interest in the labor movement and politics. He and his wife Lesley live in the Lansing suburb of DeWitt.

Paul will be honored Saturday, April 7, 2001, with induction into the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame at a banquet in Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. With his years of work on behalf of the labor movement in Michigan, Paul Seldenright has more than earned this recognition.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD BREWER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable South Carolinian who was named "MVP 2001" by the South Carolina State Council of Senior Citizens. Richard Brewer has earned this prestigious honor through his constant dedication to his community.

Mr. Brewer is the first elected president of ILA Local 1422 Retirees, where he continues to serve. He is also on the Executive Board of the South Carolina State Council of Senior Citizens. Family and church have always come first for Mr. Brewer, but he selflessly devotes his time to his Chartered ILA Club. He is active in the politics of South Carolina, leading rallies at the State Capitol dealing with issues ranging from the Confederate Flag to workers rights.

Richard Brewer led the ILA Retiree volunteers in hosting a "Legislative Breakfast" in Charleston, South Carolina last year. He also took it upon himself to ensure the attendance of key elected officials, causing the event to be a complete success. The funding for the breakfast was also secured by Mr. Brewer, whose ILA Retirees paid for the event.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in paying tribute to Richard Brewer and the ILA Local 1422 Retirees. Mr. Brewer has demonstrated tireless dedication and loyalty to the citizens of my state of South Carolina and for this he should be honored.

THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID NURSING SERVICES QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT of 2001

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague from Wisconsin, Representative PAUL RYAN, in introducing legislation to allow certain non-certified resident assistants to continue to be employed by nursing facilities in North Dakota, Wisconsin, and up to 8 other states under a 3-year demonstration project.

For several years, nursing facilities in these and other states have relied upon single-task employees, specifically assistants who help their residents dine, to supplement professional nurse staffing levels and increase patient care. Unfortunately, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has given our states' facilities until August 31, 2001 to discontinue the employment of feeding assistants. With the current national shortage in nursing facility employees, the loss of these valuable workers will further strain our nursing homes. Particularly as our elderly population increases in future years, we must ensure that nursing homes do not lose existing staff. Unless Congress acts, significantly fewer trained professionals will be available to ensure that nursing home residents can comfortably and safely enjoy their meals.

In North Dakota alone, 40 percent, or two out of five, of the state's nursing facilities have had to deny new admissions in the past 12 months due to staffing shortages. The state currently has 600 open positions for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). While the North Dakota Long Term Care Association encourages all feeding assistants to become CNAs, many assistants are members of a contingent workforce and are not able to become CNAs due to physical or other limitations.

I understand that certain consumer groups, patient advocates, and labor organizations have concerns regarding the continued employment of feeding assistants in long-term care facilities. I also believe, as do these organizations, that we must act during this Congress to address the nursing shortage in our nation, increase wages for certified and licensed nurse professionals, and improve the work conditions of these individuals. At the same time, I believe that moderate steps can be taken to address the reservations regarding feeding assistants without compromising the ability of nursing facilities to care for our nation's seniors.

Specifically, I support efforts to allow only feeding assistants to continue to be employed by nursing facilities in a few states through a pilot project administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. Under such a program, these assistants augment staffing levels in a facility—they do not supplant professional nurses and are not counted toward any minimum staffing levels. Furthermore,